

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A contents retrieval system comprising:

retrieval request receiving means for receiving a
5 retrieval request of contents on a communication network
from a user accessing through the communication network,
and setting up processing conditions for retrieval
processing in accordance with the retrieval request, and
10 further issuing a reservation number of the retrieval
processing and informing the user of the reservation number,
and in addition applying the reservation number to the
processing conditions and registering the same with a
predetermined retrieval management table;

contents retrieval means for retrieving the
15 contents on the communication network in accordance with
the processing conditions registered with said retrieval
management table and storing the retrieval result, together
with the reservation number, in a predetermined retrieval
result storage file; and

20 retrieval result providing means for retrieving a
retrieval result associated with the reservation number
from among the retrieval results stored in said retrieval
result storage file, when an inquiry concerning the
retrieval result is made from a user based on the
25 reservation number, and providing the retrieval result for
the user.

2. A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said retrieval request receiving means sets up as to whether there is a need to display a retrieval result as one of the processing conditions in form of a thumb-nail image, so that the set up result is registered with said retrieval management table, and

said contents retrieval means creates the thumb-nail image and stores the thumb-nail image in a predetermined image storage file in the event that the thumb-nail image is needed in accordance with the set up result as to whether there is a need to display the thumb-nail image registered with said retrieval management table.

3. A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said retrieval request receiving means sets up as to whether there is a need to inform a user by an electronic mail of the fact that a retrieval result is obtained at the time point when the retrieval result as one of the processing conditions is obtained by said contents retrieval means, so that the set up result is registered with said retrieval management table, and

said contents retrieval means 12 informs the user by an electronic mail of the fact that the retrieval result is obtained in the event that the thumb-nail image is needed in accordance with the set up result as to whether there is a need to inform the user by the electronic mail registered with said retrieval management table.

4. A contents retrieval program storage medium
storing a contents retrieval program for forming a contents
retrieval system on a computer system, said contents
retrieval system comprising:

retrieval request receiving means for receiving a
retrieval request of contents on a communication network
from a user accessing through the communication network,
and setting up processing conditions for retrieval
processing in accordance with the retrieval request, and
further issuing a reservation number of the retrieval
processing and informing the user of the reservation number,
and in addition applying the reservation number to the
processing conditions and registering the same with a
predetermined retrieval management table;

contents retrieval means for retrieving the
contents on the communication network in accordance with
the processing conditions registered with said retrieval
management table and storing the retrieval result, together
with the reservation number, in a predetermined retrieval
result storage file; and

retrieval result providing means for retrieving a
retrieval result associated with the reservation number
from among the retrieval results stored in said retrieval
result storage file, when an inquiry concerning the
retrieval result is made from a user based on the
reservation number, and providing the retrieval result for

the user.

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